

Key Quotes

Dominique Strauss-Kahn was approached to become an advisor to the Serbian government, currently in the midst of negotiations to join the European Union. **"We talked with Mr. Strauss-Kahn, but not about his becoming a minister, but rather a special advisor,"** said the Serbian Deputy PM Aleksandar Vučić (Yahoo! France, 1/8)

<http://fr.news.yahoo.com/serbie-offre-poste-conseiller-%C3%A0-dsk-225300037.html>

Summary

Serbia's long path to EU membership

Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić moved to oust his finance minister on Tuesday, rattling the year-old coalition and risking a snap election that would almost certainly delay talks on joining the European Union. Dačić told a news conference he had proposed to his coalition partners that the government move on without Mlađan Dinkić and his URS party. His departure would likely unnerve investors worried about Serbia's growing budget gap and public debt, which have all but buried hopes of a new precautionary loan deal with the IMF. *"This is very bad timing given that global markets are still quite nervous and there's a bit of a question about the budget financing story anyway,"* Standard Bank analyst Timothy Ash told Reuters. Elections, and the weeks or months it would take to form a government, would cost valuable time in shoring up national finances and implementing the landmark accord between Serbia and its former Kosovo province. That would likely delay the start of EU accession talks, pencilled in for January. *"I am not sure Serbia can afford early elections in terms of lower growth, lower budget revenues, bigger budget deficit"* Ash said (uk.reuters.com, UK, 30/7). However, Dačić explained that if Aleksandar Vučić's Serb Progressive Party (SNS) fails to support the change, early elections will be called, or some coalition will be formed without the SPS (kerdos.gr, 31/7). Before Serbia can officially join the EU, some hard work remains to be done, the economy is outdated and the state machinery too large. It is likely that the EU might also want to talk about justice, citizens' rights and the rule of law since Serbia is getting negative attention from incidents that infringe those rights (Süddeutsche Zeitung, DE, 31/7).

- uk.reuters.com, UK, 30/7, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/07/30/uk-serbia-finmin-idUKBRE96T15L20130730?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>
- Süddeutsche Zeitung, DE, 31/7, http://193.178.140.110/delivery/20130731/mi/item_164518491.pdf
- kerdos.gr, 31/7, www.kerdos.gr/default.aspx?id=1951180&nt=103

Croatian President's visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Following the Croatian President, Ivo Josipović's visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, his first official visit abroad since Croatia joined the European Union, the President commented that in diplomatic terms it had been successful. He stressed, however, that cooperation between the two countries should not be measured by a single visit but by the daily communication of both governments which are responsible for solving issues occurring following the break-up of the former Yugoslavia, as well as those occurring following Croatia's EU admission. *"Let me say this once and for all, Croatia will not be involved in determining how the peoples and citizens of another country regulate their relations, nor is such a thing possible. It is our national interest to have our neighbours, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, be stable and successful countries"* Josipović said (kerdos.gr, 30/7).

- kerdos.gr, 30/7, <http://www.kerdos.gr/default.aspx?id=1950930&nt=103>

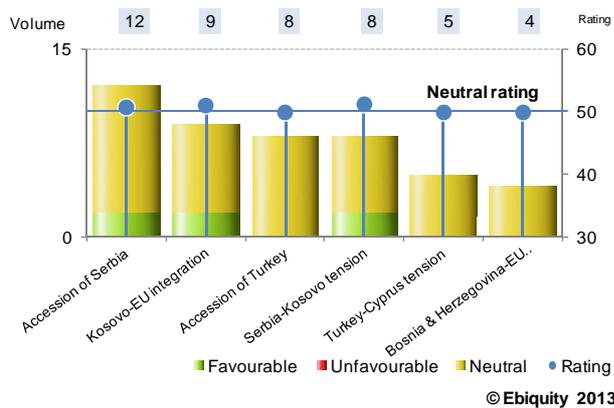
Fish quotas sanction move against Faroe Islands and Iceland on table

Sanctions against the Faroe Islands in the row over fishing quotas could move a major step closer later this month. A European Union committee may back blocking the export of herring and mackerel from the Faroes to the EU. Member states voted overwhelmingly in favour of the ban, following concerns at the decision by Faroese government to set its own catch limits. Scottish skippers have been demanding tough action is taken against the country, and Iceland, over the decision to set their own catch limits. Iceland's fishing minister said what were described as illegal sanctions would not resolve the issue (bbc.co.uk, UK, 31/7).

- bbc.co.uk, UK, 31/7, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-23515239>

Charts

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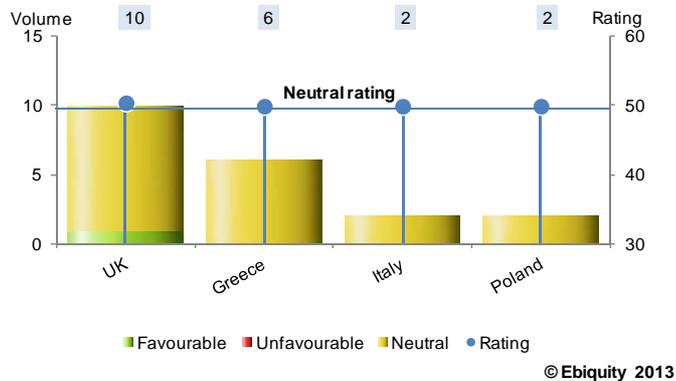
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Volume	26 items
Rating	50.4
Favourable %	7.7%
Unfavourable %	0%
Neutral %	92.3%

ELARG: Key Stakeholders & Sources
by volume, favourability & rating

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ELARG: Stakeholders & Sources	Number of mentions
Ivica Dačić (Prime Minister, Serbia)	8
Aleksandar Vučić (First Deputy Prime Minister, Serbia)	4
Baroness Catherine Ashton, (High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, EU)	3
Alexander Downer (Special Adviser on Cyprus, UN)	3
Ivo Josipović (President, Croatia)	3
Mlađan Dinkić (Finance Minister, Serbia)	3

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